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The making of an evangelist

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Will the Real Evangelist Please Stand Up?

A study on the true evangelist

There are evangelists and evangelists. Some are the God-called sincere, Bible based, straight down the line, evangelists, and some are the 'quack' evangelists. To find out the difference between the real and the false we will examine what a real evangelist is: and what he is not.

What he is not (or should not be)

* A professional (that is, professional in method but ot a 'professional' evangelist with no heart in it.
* Hypocritical.
* A lover of money.
* An uncouth person or rude.
* A charlatan (resorting to 'quack' medicine tactics or deceitful methods, especially in making an appeal for conversion).
* A user of high-pressure emotionalism.
* A proud person.
* A jealous person (especially of other evangelists).
* A lime-light seeker (getting in the spotlight, which is Christ's rightful place).
* A hireling (doesn't really care for the sheep).
* A manipulator of people.
* An uncaring person.
* A prayerless warrior.
* An autocrat (or a prima donna type). We can't magnify ourselves and Jesus at the same time.
* A builder of his own kingdom.

What he is (or should be)

* Called by God (Ephesians 4:11-12).
* Gifted by God (Ephesians 4:11-12).
* Does not choose himself. He is God's man from start to finish.
* Born from above (John 3:6-8).
* A new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17-18).
* Has put on the 'new man' (Colossians 3:9-10).
* The temple of God (1 Corinthians 6:15-20).
* His heart is a sanctuary for God - an inner shrine where God dwells).
* Is equipped by God for service and soul-winning. He looks to Christ to make him a 'fisher of men' (Matthew 4:19).
* Knows the message is from God - an authentic word - not of words only but power too (1 Corinthians 4:20).
* Diligent. Approved unto God (2 Timothy 2:15).
* Granted liberty by God (2 Corinthians 3:7).
* Equipped with God's power (2 Corinthians 3:5-6).
* Expects to do the outstanding by God's power (Ephesians 3:20-21).
*Daily warms his heart at God's fire.*
*Cares for people (is burdened because of the lost or those in a backslidden state.)*
*Bears his cross daily (Matthew 16:24; Romans 12:1).*
*Practices self discipline (a disciple should be a disciplined one).*
*Preaches the Word, not man's ideas (2 Timothy 4:2).*
*Keeps 'filling with the Spirit — is present continuous tense (Ephesians 5:18).*
*Speaks the truth in love. On the High Priest's garment there is a golden bell (truth) and a pomegranate (love). that is, truth tempered by love.*
*Seeks to warn and/or win (Ezekiel 33:1-11; Acts 20:26-27).*

The evangelist will be equipped by God to do efficient service for God, and enable him to exalt the Lord so that men and women will love God. He is a voice for God. A vessel to be used. He is a promoter of God's kingdom and never of his own. He allows the Spirit of God to work through his natural personality, indeed he expects the Spirit to work through him provided the channels are clean.

He co-operates with the Holy Spirit. He yields as he uses the sword of the Spirit (Galatians 2:20; Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12). The Holy Spirit convicts (Acts 7:54) of sin (John 16:9); convinces of righteousness (John 16:10); convicts of judgment (John 16:11; 1 John 5:19; John 17:16); and so He saves (Acts 2:37-41).

No true evangelist will lack humility. One has said, 'Seven words about Jesus for every one about yourself'. Another, 'No one can magnify Christ and himself at the same time'. Also, though some humour is at times helpful, he is not meant to be a comedian.

His aim is the evangelising, establishing and equipping people for Christ as Lord. Ephesians 4:11-12 says, 'And he gave some apostles, and some prophets: and some evangelists: and some pastors and teachers for the perfecting (maturity and equipping) of the saints for their work of the ministry, for the edifying (building up) of the body of Christ'.

His burden should be like Jesus weeping over Jerusalem or Paul who could wish himself accursed for Christ for the brethren's sake.

A little poem I cam across (with both the author and publisher unknown) says a great deal to evangelists:

> When I am dying how glad I shall be,  
> That the lamp of my life has been blazed out for Thee,  
> I shall be glad in whatever I gave,  
> Life, or money, or sinner to save,  
> I shall not mind that the path has been rough,  
> That thy dear feet led the way is enough,  
> When I am dying, how glad I shall be,  
> That the lamp of my life has been blazed out for Thee.
Although the above two sections deal primarily with the attitudes and requirements of the full-time evangelist, those statements can be equally applicable to the three categories set out below:

1. The full time evangelist (Ephesians 4:11-12; Acts 21:8).
2. The pastor who does the work of an evangelist (2 Timothy 4:5).

In Proverbs 11:30 it reminds us that it is wise to win souls. In Psalms 126:5-6 it says we will reap in joy. And Daniel 12:3 reminds us that they who evangelise will shine as the stars for ever and ever.

Statement 3 above will be dealt with more fully in the next chapter under the heading 'The full proof of ministry'.